

that I know of, on this bill in his time in the Senate. I would also like to thank my colleagues, Senator ENZI, the ranking member of the committee, former chairman and ranking member of the committee, for his help and also Senator BURR for working hard on the legislation and getting it where it is today.

Finally, I thank my friend, Senator DODD, for his tireless efforts. The Senate will certainly miss his leadership on this and so many other important issues. Additionally, I thank members of our staffs who helped to make this possible, and let me just—I am going to read their names, but let me say at the outset, while many of us were perhaps not around during Thanksgiving week or perhaps even the week after the elections, I can tell you the staffs were hard at work day after day, sometimes late in the evenings, sometimes on weekends, to help get this bill together. These staff people deserve so many thanks from not only me but from everyone involved with this legislation.

From Senator DURBIN's staff: Albert Sanders, Anne Wall, and Dena Morris; from Senator ENZI's staff: Chuck Clapton, Keith Flanagan, Travis Jordan, Frank Macchiarola, and Amy Muhlberg; Senator DODD's staff: Anna Steton and Tamar Haro; Senator GREGG's staff has worked on this bill from the beginning: Elizabeth Wroe; Senator BURR's staff: Anna Abram and Margaret Brooks; Senator REED's staff: Carolyn Gluck and Kasey Gillette; and from my staff: Kathleen Laird, Tom Kraus, Bill McConagha, Mark Halverson, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy, Pam Smith, and Dan Smith. All of them are heroes and heroines in my book. They really put forth supreme effort to get this bill to us today so we could have this overwhelming vote of approval.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about a friend and colleague whom I will miss very much when he leaves the Senate after we adjourn, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. I cannot thank him for his service without mentioning the outstanding work of his capable staff: Mary Irving, his chief of staff; Sumner Slichter, his policy director; Bob Schiff, chief counsel; and Paul Weinberger, his legislative director, a loyal and outstanding team.

Without intending it as a commentary on his successor, I have to confess I think the Senate will be a much poorer place without RUSS FEINGOLD in it. I know that in my next term I will experience fewer occasions of inspiration because of the departure of RUSS FEINGOLD, a man whose courage and dedication to the principles that guided his Senate service often inspired me.

I will also miss the daily experience of RUSS FEINGOLD's friendship, and the qualities that distinguish his friendship, his thoughtfulness, kindness, humor and loyalty. I have treasured that friendship all the years we have served together, and while friendship does not end with a Senate career, I will sorely miss his presence. I will miss seeing him every day. I will miss traveling with him. I will miss the daily reminder of what a blessing it is to have a true friend in Washington.

Our first encounter with one another was in a Senate debate in which we argued about an aircraft carrier, somewhat heatedly, if memory serves. RUSS thought the U.S. Navy had one too many. I thought we did not have enough. It was, I am sorry to admit, not a very considerate welcome on my part to a new colleague, whom I would soon have many reasons to admire. But to RUSS's credit, he did not let my discourtesy stand in the way of working together on issues where we were in agreement. And to my good fortune, he did not let it stand in the way of our friendship either.

We are of different parties and our political views are often opposed.

We have had many debates on many issues. But where we agreed on wasteful spending, ethics reform, campaign finance reform and other issues, it was a privilege to fight alongside and not against RUSS FEINGOLD.

We do not often hear anymore about Members of Congress who distinguish themselves by having the courage of their convictions; who risk their personal interests for what they believe is in the public interest. I have seen many examples of it here, but the cynicism of our times, among the political class and the media and the voters, tends to miss examples of political courage or dismiss them as probable frauds or, at best, exceptions that prove the rule. In his time in the Senate, RUSS FEINGOLD, every day and in every way, had the courage of his convictions. And though I am quite a few years older than RUSS, and have served in this body longer than he has, I confess I have always felt he was my superior in that cardinal virtue.

We were both up for re-election in 1998. I had an easy race. RUSS had a difficult one. As many of our colleagues will remember, RUSS and I opposed soft money, the unlimited corporate and labor donations to political parties that we believed were compromising the integrity of Congress, and we were a nuisance on the subject. RUSS's opponent in 1998 was outspending him on television, and the race became tighter. It reached a point where most observers, Democrats and Republicans, expected him to lose. The Democratic Party pleaded with RUSS to let it spend soft money on his behalf. RUSS refused. He risked his seat, the job he loved, because his convictions were more important to him than any personal success. I think he is one of the most admirable people I have ever met in my life.

We have had a lot of experiences together. We fought together for many things, important things. And we have fought many times on opposite sides. We have been honored together and scorned together. We have traveled abroad together. We could not be farther apart in our views on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we traveled there together as well, to gain knowledge that would inform our views and challenge them. We have listened to each other; debated each other; defended each other; joked and commiserated together.

And in my every experience with RUSS FEINGOLD, in agreement and disagreement, in pleasant times and difficult ones, in heated arguments and in the relaxed conversation of friends, he was an exemplary public servant; a gentleman; good company; an irreplaceable friend; a kind man; a man to be admired.

I can not do justice in these remarks to all of RUSS's many qualities or express completely how much I think this institution benefited from his service here and how much I benefited from knowing him. I lack the eloquence. I do not think he is replaceable. We would all do well to keep his example in our minds as we serve our constituents and country and convictions. We could not have a better role model.

I have every expectation we will remain good friends long after we have both ended our Senate careers. But I will miss him every day. And I will try harder to become half the public servant he is. Because his friendship is an honor and honors come with responsibilities.

God bless my friend RUSS FEINGOLD.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I want to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I spent a lot of time, as my colleagues have, traveling our States during the elections, to be sure, but also since. I hear a lot of discussion from regular people—not from people running for office per se but regular people—about what this new health care law has meant to them. I meet 22-year-olds who are now on their parents' health insurance plan. If you are 22 in this country today, your chances of finding a job with decent health care are not real high in most places in our country, and